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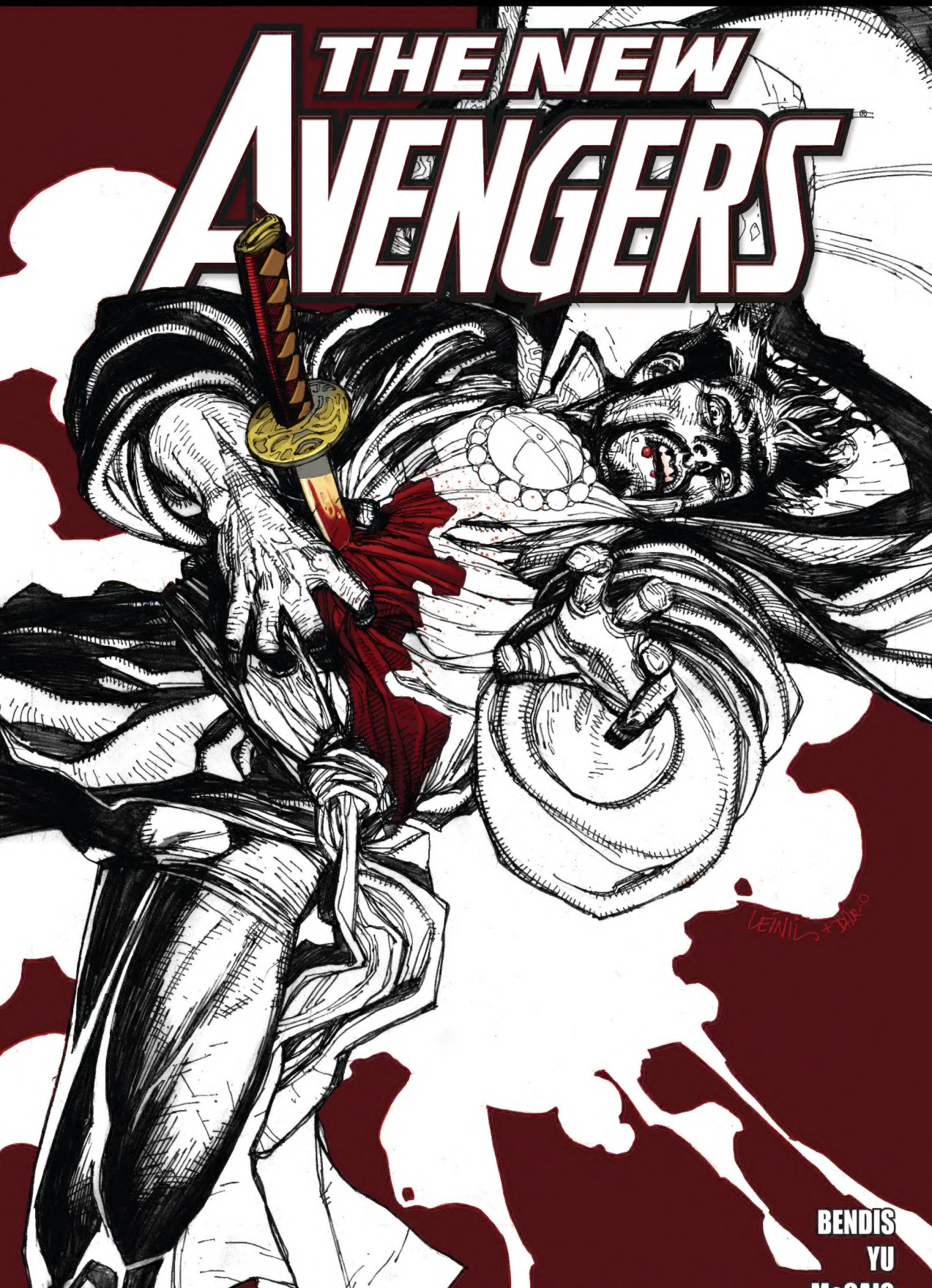
THE INITIATIVE

THE NEW AVENGERS



BENDIS
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THE NEW AVENGERS

REVOLUTION
PART FOUR
PREVIOUSLY...

The Civil War has ended. Captain America surrendered to Iron Man's pro-registration forces, and now the Avengers are no more. Superhumans such as Luke Cage, Spider-Man, Wolverine and Spider-Woman have gone underground rather than register their identities with the government.

Meanwhile, Maya Lopez--the deaf woman also known as Echo--was dispatched by the Avengers to Japan to keep an eye on the growing threat of the Japanese underworld. While in disguise as Ronin, the mysterious ninja, Maya is violently killed by Elektra, the current leader of the Hand. But Elektra brings Maya back to life using ancient Hand magics. Before Echo could be completely brainwashed into joining the Hand, the New Avengers arrive to rescue her, making a heroic getaway. The Hand tracks the Avengers to Castle Yashida, home of the Silver Samurai.

One day before their journey to Japan, the New Avengers, who have been using Doctor Strange's magically-altered Sanctum Sanctorum as a headquarters, are led into a trap by the Mighty Avengers, the government-sanctioned team led by Iron Man and Ms. Marvel. The New Avengers escape, but in doing so, let Iron Man know that they are being aided by Doctor Strange. Iron Man seeks a mystic to help find the rebels, and Brother Voodoo soon arrives at Strange's doorstep.

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NEW YORK CITY, EARLIER TODAY.
S.H.I.E.L.D. COMMAND TO DIRECTOR STARK.
NO UPDATE. HOLD STEADY, HELICARRIER. BROTHER VOODOO IS IN THERE DOING--
CAROL.
THAT VOODOO THAT HE DO.
OH, LIKE YOU WEREN'T DYING TO SAY IT.
I KNOW.
THIS IS SERIOUS.

DOCTOR STRANGE IS IN HIS HOME AND HE IS HIDING FROM US.
MAYBE.
HE IS.

TELL ME WHEN.
HOLD STILL, ARES.

I HATE THIS MAGIC $%#@.
THANK YOU.
YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN.
IT'S THE ONLY THING KEEPING US OUT OF JAIL, WOLVERINE.
I MEANT THE VOODOO GUY. HIS MAGIC I DON'T LIKE.

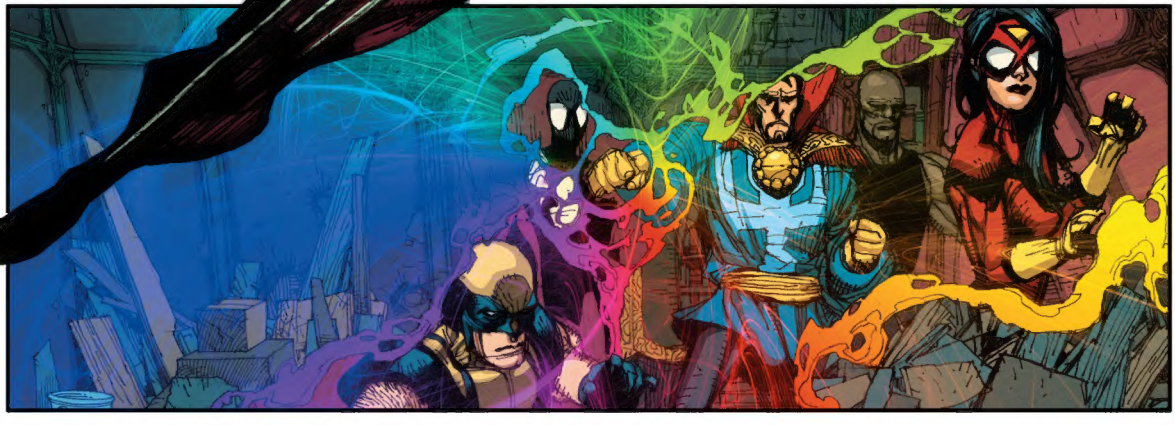
DOC, IF WE GOT TO THROW DOWN, WE'LL THROW DOWN...
NOT WITH MY KID IN THE ROOM.
YEAH, UH, NO $%^#.
HOLD ON...

A DOLLAR FOR WHOEVER TELLS ME WHAT'S GOING ON.
I SWEAR, A WHOLE DOLLAR.
WAIT...
WELL...?

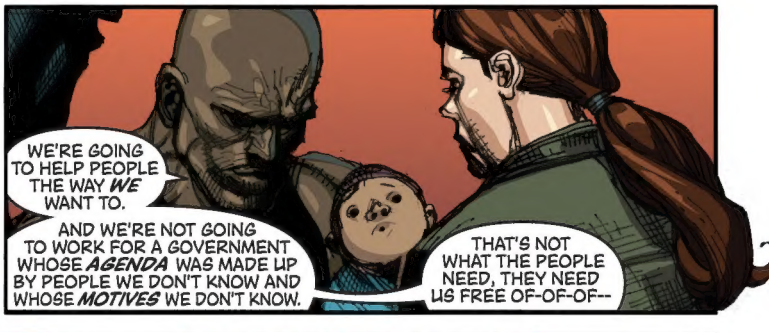
DOCTOR STRANGE IS NOT IN THERE. NO ONE IS IN THERE.
YOU'RE SURE?
NO.
NO?
NO.
HE'S CALLED THE MASTER OF THE MYSTIC ARTS FOR A REASON.
HE IS THE MASTER.
HE KNOWS MORE ABOUT WHAT HE KNOWS THAN ANYONE ON THE PLANET.
SO THERE MAY BE A CHANCE THAT HE KNOWS HOW TO BE HOME AND NOT BE HOME, AND I WOULDN'T KNOW HOW HE WAS DOING IT.
THANK YOU.
HERO FIGHTING HERO. HERO FIGHTING HERO.
I WONDER WHAT THE CRIMINALS ARE DOING.
YES, THANK YOU.
TONY?
I WANT TO GET MY KID OUT OF HERE.
YEAH, NO $%#@.
WAIT.
WE'RE DONE HERE.
HEAD ON BACK TO THE TOWER.
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO?
I'LL BE RIGHT BEHIND YOU.

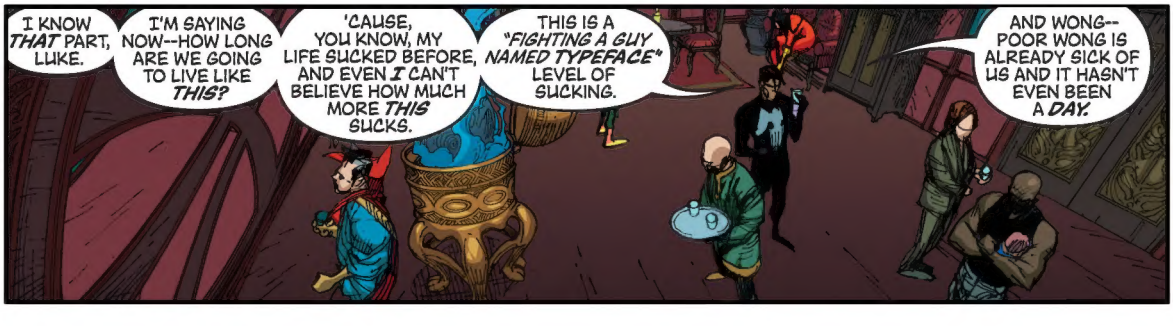
I KNOW YOU, STEPHEN...
LUKE... PETER...
I *KNOW* YOU GUYS.
I KNOW YOU'RE *HERE.*
AND I KNOW TOMORROW YOU *WON'T* BE.
I...JUST WANTED TO SAY--FOR THE LIFE OF ME, I CAN'T FIGURE OUT WHAT YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING.
YOU *LOST* THE WAR.
YOU FOUGHT AND LOST.
YOU SHOULD SUCK IT UP AND JOIN US. YOU CAN BE *HEROES* AGAIN.
YOU CAN BE *AVENGERS* AGAIN.
THE ONLY DIFFERENCE IS--WELL, YOU KNOW WHAT THE DIFFERENCE IS. I'M NOT GOING TO SELL YOU.
BUT I WONDER--AT THIS POINT--
--WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'LL ACCOMPLISH?
WHAT KIND OF *LIFE* IS THIS?
ARE YOU JUST REBELLING AGAINST US BECAUSE YOU JUST DON'T KNOW WHAT ELSE TO DO?

I REALLY WANT TO KNOW.
WHAT DO YOU THINK THE END OF THIS STORY IS?
BECAUSE IF YOU KNOW AN ENDING BETTER THAN THE ONE *I* CAN THINK OF...
...PLEASE *TELL* ME.
PLEASE LET ME *IN* ON IT.

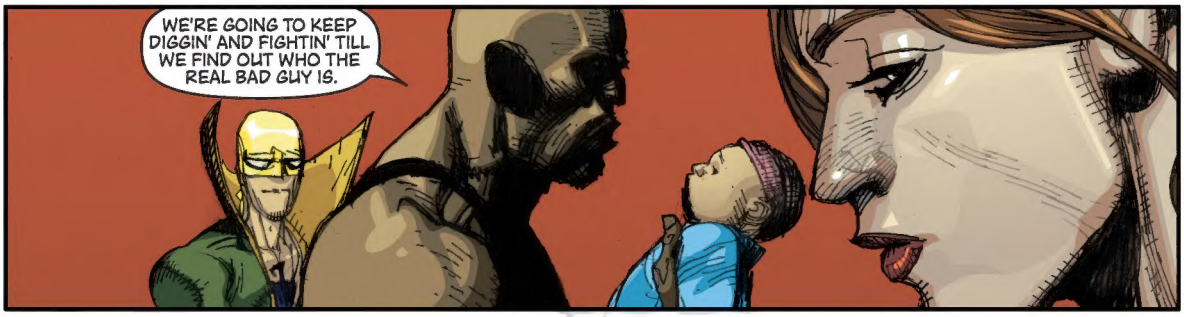


(OKAY, I'LL BE THE ONE.)
HE DID HAVE A BIT OF A POINT.
WHAT ARE WE TRYING TO ACCOMPLISH?


WE'RE GOING TO HELP PEOPLE THE WAY WE WANT TO.
AND WE'RE NOT GOING TO WORK FOR A GOVERNMENT WHOSE AGENDA WAS MADE UP BY PEOPLE WE DON'T KNOW AND WHOSE MOTIVES WE DON'T KNOW.
THAT'S NOT WHAT THE PEOPLE NEED, THEY NEED US FREE OF-OF-OF--


I KNOW THAT PART, LUKE.
I'M SAYING NOW--HOW LONG ARE WE GOING TO LIVE LIKE THIS?
'CAUSE, YOU KNOW, MY LIFE SUCKED BEFORE, AND EVEN I CAN'T BELIEVE HOW MUCH MORE THIS SUCKS.
THIS IS A "FIGHTING A GUY NAMED TYPEFACE" LEVEL OF SUCKING.
AND WONG--POOR WONG IS ALREADY SICK OF US AND IT HASN'T EVEN BEEN A DAY.

OKAY...
JUST WEEKS BEFORE THE CIVIL WAR WENT FULL-SCALE--
--WE ALL FIRST HOOKED UP AS AVENGERS BECAUSE WE WERE TRYING TO STOP A PRISON BREAK.
BECAUSE SOMEONE LET ALL THE CRIMINALS OUT OF THEIR CAGES. NOT SOME...*ALL* OF THEM.
AND WHEN WE WENT CHASING AFTER THEM, WE FOUND OUT THAT--
I KNOW THIS--WE--
YOU NEED TO HEAR IT *AGAIN.*
WE WENT OFF TO THE SAVAGE LAND AND WHAT DID WE FIND? WE FOUND OUT THAT THERE WAS SOMETHIN' REALLY ROTTEN IN S.H.I.E.L.D.
THEN WE FOUND OUT THERE WAS SOMETHING ROTTEN IN HYDRA TOO...
AND ALL OF A SUDDEN, NICK FURY WENT BYE-BYE.
AND ALL OF A SUDDEN, THE GOVERNMENT TURNS US ON EACH OTHER.
AND ALL OF A SUDDEN IT ALL WENT BACKWARDS ON US *REAL FAST.*
AND I'M NOT JUST STEAMIN' BECAUSE WE LOST THE WAR AND CAP'S DEAD.
NO, I'M STEAMIN' BECAUSE I THINK THERE'S A LOT MORE GOIN' ON HERE. I FEEL *MANIPULATED.* I FEEL SOMEONE PULLING MY STRINGS.
S.H.I.E.L.D., HYDRA, OUR SECRET WAR, THE CIVIL WAR....
I THINK THEY'RE CONNECTED.
DO YOU?
AND DOES THAT IDEA SCARE THE HOLY CRAP OUT OF YOU?
IF IT *DOESN'T* AND Y'WANNA GO? GO.
GO BACK TO YOUR PAL, TONY.
I'M ASKING--AS A GROUP--WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO?


WE'RE GOING TO KEEP DIGGIN' AND FIGHTIN' TILL WE FIND OUT WHO THE REAL BAD GUY IS.

I AGREE EVERYTHING *IS* UPSIDE DOWN. I AGREE.
BUT...
WHAT IF THERE IS NO REAL BAD GUY? WHAT IF IT'S ALL JUST UPSIDE DOWN?

MAYBE IT ALL FEELS UPSIDE DOWN BECAUSE *WE* TURNED IT UPSIDE DOWN?
AND-AND-AND WHAT IF WE'RE REALLY THE BAD GUYS NOW?
YOU KNOW, IT DAWNED ON ME A WHILE AGO, NORMAN OSBORN, WILSON FISK...THEY NEVER SEE *THEMSELVES* AS THE BAD GUYS...THEY *REALLY* DON'T.

THEN WE'LL BEAT *EACH OTHER* UP.
WE'RE GOOD AT *THAT.*

BUT THAT'S TOMORROW'S THING.
TODAY...
TODAY WE GO TO JAPAN AND WE FIND MAYA LOPEZ.

ANYONE DON'T WANT TO...
...ALL THINGS CONSIDERED...
...I DON'T THINK ANYONE'S GOING TO JUDGE.
BUT WE LEFT HER THERE AND SHE NEEDS HELP AND NO ONE ELSE CAN DO IT BUT US.
PRETTY SURE--CAP WOULD WANT US TO DO THIS.

IT WOULDN'T BE A BAD IDEA TO GET OUT OF THE COUNTRY.
OY! I'VE GOT TO GO TELL MY WIFE.
MASTER...

I SEE IT.

WHO IS THAT?
IT'S ANOTHER DAMN TRICK.
WHO *IS* IT?
OH, MAN...
IT'S CLINT BARTON.
YOU KNEW HIM AS HAWKEYE.
I THOUGHT HE WAS *DEAD.*
HE'S NOT.
=WHEW= BECAUSE IF HE'S DEAD AND I CAN SEE HIM...
...THAT'S NOT GOOD FOR ME.
IT'S A TRICK.
HE CAME TO ME MONTHS BACK, BEFORE THE WAR AND ALL OF THIS, LOOKING FOR WANDA MAXIMOFF.
I TOLD HIM I DIDN'T KNOW WHERE SHE WAS AND GAVE HIM SOME COUNSEL AS HE TRIES TO MAKE HIS WAY BACK INTO THE WORLD.
HE HAD NO INTEREST IN HIS OLD LIFE. I THINK WE CAN TRUST HIM.
YEAH? LET'S SAY HI.

OH, WELL...
HI!
GAH!
WHERE'D YOU ALL COME FROM?!
HAWKEYE, HUH?
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, MR. BARTON?
WHAT IS GOING ON?
IT'S A LONG STORY.
DID YOU FIND THE SCARLET WITCH?
NO.
YOU FIBBIN', PAL?
'CAUSE I CAN SMELL A FIB AND YOU SMELL LIKE YOU'RE FIBBING.

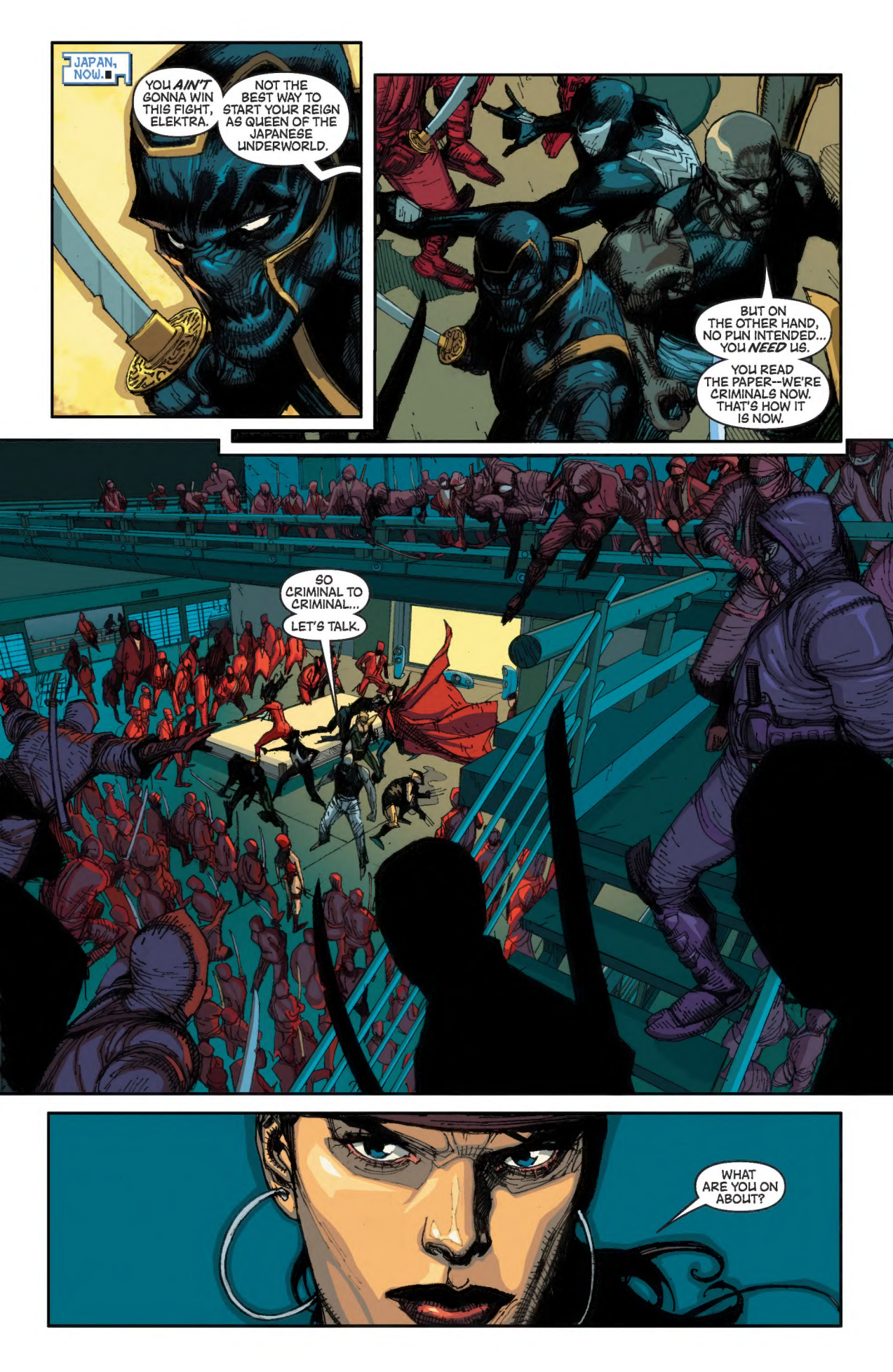
WHAT I FOUND ISN'T GOING TO DO ANYONE ANY GOOD.
OKAY?
AM I LYING ABOUT THAT?
SHE'S GOT A LOT TO ANSWER FOR.
YEAH, I KNOW.
BUT LISTEN, DOCTOR STRANGE--YOU SAID TO ME THERE ISN'T ANY SUCH THING AS CLOSURE...AND YOU WERE RIGHT.
I CAME HERE TO TELL YOU THAT--YOU WERE RIGHT.
HEY, JESSICA DREW...
YOU DON'T LOOK SO DEAD, HAWKEYE.
YEAH? WELL, THANKS.
SAW YOU ON TV $%#@ING UP YOUR WHOLE LIFE, PETER.
I'M THINKING ABOUT SUBMITTING THE TAPE FOR EMMY CONSIDERATION.
HOW ARE YOU NOT DEAD?
WEREN'T YOU DEAD ONCE?
AND DO I REALLY HAVE TO HASH THROUGH ALL THE HOUSE OF M CRAP NOW? MOST OF YOU WERE THERE.
I'D RATHER LOOK FORWARD, Y'KNOW?
SO, WHAT ARE YOU GUYS?
THE NEW DEFENDERS?

YOU'RE ONE OF THE OLD-SCHOOL AVENGERS, HAWKEYE, WHY AREN'T YOU WITH THEM?
WITH TONY STARK AND HIS CORPORATE PUPPET MUPPET BABIES?
YEAH? NO.
NO, I JUST CAME BACK HERE TO TELL DOC STRANGE THAT I'M OKAY.
I OWED HIM THAT.
YOU'LL HAVE TO EXCUSE US FOR THINKING THIS IS ALL JUST A BIG PILE OF HORSE--
WELL, THAT'S FINE.
YOU ALL GO BACK TO WHATEVER IT WAS YOU WERE DOING AND I'LL BE ON MY WAY.
NO. NO, YOU CAN STAY.
NAH, IT'S OKAY.
DOC, THANKS FOR EVERYTHING. I MEAN IT.
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO?
WELL, NOW THAT I FINALLY FOUND A WAY BACK INTO THIS COUNTRY, I'M GOING TO DO WHATEVER THE HELL I CAN TO HONOR CAPTAIN AMERICA'S WORLD-VIEW.
THE GUY MEANT EVERYTHING TO ME, AND IF I WAS HERE TO *STOP* THE WAR, I WOULD HAVE.
WITH A *BULLET* IF I HAD TO.
YEAH, WELL, WE WERE CAP'S TEAM, Y'KNOW.
YEAH?
AND WHAT ARE YOU DOING ABOUT IT?
WHY AREN'T YOU STORMING THAT AVENGERS *"TOWER"* AND SHOVING THE SUPERHUMAN REGISTRATION ACT UP TONY STARK'S @#$?

WE'RE DOING THAT ON SATURDAY.
TONIGHT WE'RE GOING TO JAPAN.
NOT WITH HIM.
NO?
GUY COMES BACK FROM THE DEAD RIGHT AFTER WE---
WHAT'S IN JAPAN?
SOMETHING CAP WANTED--
NO. STOP. STOP IT.
LET HIM GO.
LUKE...
LUKE...
GO BACK TO YOUR PAL TONY. AND YOU TELL HIM FROM *ME* THAT THERE ISN'T--
LUKE. IT REALLY *IS* HIM AND HE REALLY IS--
I CAN BARELY TRUST THE PEOPLE IN THIS *ROOM.* NOW I GOT CASPER THE FRIENDLY GHOST--
DON'T PULL A HAMMY, CAGE--I'LL LEAVE.
WE *COULD* USE HIM.
WE COULD.
WAS IT JUST *ME* WHO WAS AN HOUR AGO TRICKED BY FORMER FRIENDS INTO ALMOST--?
WOULD IT MAKE YOU FEEL BETTER IF I CAST THE SPELL OF TARTASH! ON US?

BOY, WOULD IT!
(WHAT IS IT?)
IT WILL SHOW US-- PURITY.
PURITY.
IT WILL CLEARLY SHOW ANYONE WHO IS LIVING WITH DECEPTION TOWARDS US.
BUT WE ALL WEAR MASKS. I MEAN, BY DEFINITION--
OF SPIRIT. OF INTENTION.
I *THINK* IT WILL PUT THIS ROOM AT EASE IF WE ARE TO PARTNER UP FOR THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE.
SHALL I? WOULD THAT MAKE YOU FEEL BETTER?
YEAH ACTUALLY.
HOW DOES IT WORK EXACTLY?
JUST WATCH.
HA HEE!!
HEE HAA!

WELL...?
THAT'S IT.
WHAT'S IT?
EVERYONE HERE IS PURE OF INTENTION.
HOW DO YOU *KNOW?*
BECAUSE IF YOU WEREN'T, YOU WOULD BE HAVING A SEIZURE RIGHT NOW.
WELL, THAT'S NICE.
SHE LAUGHED. SHE'S NEVER LAUGHED BEFORE.
A BABY-- THERE'S NOTHING MORE PURE OF SPIRIT.
SERIOUSLY, WHAT'S IN JAPAN?
A FRIEND WHO NEEDS HELP.
CAP SENT HER INTO THE FIELD AND NOW SHE'S IN TROUBLE.
ALL RIGHT, YEAH, OKAY...
GET YOUR HAWKEYE ON AND COME WITH.
I'M NOT HAWKEYE ANYMORE.
TSK.
SORRY, IT'S COSTUMES ONLY.
WHAT?
LIKE A NINJA?


JAPAN, NOW.
YOU AIN'T GONNA WIN THIS FIGHT, ELEKTRA.
NOT THE BEST WAY TO START YOUR REIGN AS QUEEN OF THE JAPANESE UNDERWORLD.
BUT ON THE OTHER HAND, NO PUN INTENDED... YOU NEED US.
YOU READ THE PAPER--WE'RE CRIMINALS NOW. THAT'S HOW IT IS NOW.
SO CRIMINAL TO CRIMINAL...
LET'S TALK.
WHAT ARE YOU ON ABOUT?

WE HAVE NOTHING TO FIGHT OVER, YOU GUYS AND US.
WE *DON'T?*
WE DON'T!
(WOW, I COMPLETELY MISREAD THE ROOM.)
WE'RE NOT TRYING TO TAKE ANYTHING FROM YOU THAT WASN'T OURS, ELEKTRA.
WE DON'T *WANT* YOUR TERRITORY. WE'RE NOT TRYING TO *STOP* YOU FROM DOING WHAT YOU'RE DOING HERE.
WE'RE GOING HOME TO AMERICA AND WE'RE TAKING MAYA LOPEZ WITH US.
WE *WANT* MAYA LOPEZ.
YOU'LL LIVE WITHOUT HER. IT'S NOT WORTH THE FIGHT.
IT'S JUST BAD BUSINESS.
YOU REALLY THINK SHE'S *WORTH* HOWEVER MANY MEN YOU'LL LOSE IF YOU COME AT US LIKE THIS?
I DON'T KNOW EVERYTHING ABOUT THE HAND, BUT AT SOME POINT, YOU *GOTTA* RUN OUT OF DUDES IN ROBES, RIGHT?
MEANWHILE, WE HAVE LARGER ITEMS ON THE AGENDA.
AGENDA?
WHAT AGENDA?
S.H.I.E.L.D., THE SUPERHUMAN CIVIL WAR, HYDRA FALLING APART AROUND YOU...
...AND NOW, ALL OF A SUDDEN, *YOU'RE* RUNNING THE JAPANESE UNDERWORLD.
EVERYTHING IS BACKWARDS, UPSIDE DOWN, TOPSY-TURVY...
DO YOU KNOW WHY?
DO I KNOW WHY *WHAT?*
DO YOU KNOW WHY EVERYTHING IS UPSIDE DOWN?
WHY?
CAGE... WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
TALKIN' IT OUT.
NO, YOU'RE NOT. YOU'RE LETTING HER WIN.
NO, WE'RE GOING TO SETTLE THIS LIKE--
CHK

GKK!

SHUCK

OH, I THOUGHT YOU WERE REALLY TRYING TO TALK TO HER.

(I AM *REALLY* NOT IN THE GAME TODAY.)

I WAS STALLING-- WAITING FOR YOU TO HEAL UP.

BUB, YOU NEVER STALL NINJAS!

MAYA!

WHY WOULD I WANT TO TALK TO *HER*?

BAD MOVE, MAN.

LUKE!

AGH!

WELL! I'M FIGHTING NINJAS AGAIN, EVEN THOUGH I SPECIFICALLY SAID I'M DONE FIGHTING NINJAS.

HRRRKK!

WAIT TILL THE JAPANESE TOURIST BOARD HEARS ABOUT TH--AGH!

UH, GUYS, NAPPY TIME WAS ON THE PLANE, NOW IS NOT THE TIME TO-- AGH!

WELCOME TO YOUR NEW LIFE, MAYA LOPEZ...

GGGKK...

TO BE CONTINUED...